

## Forest Strategy Discussion Forum – Speaking Notes

Haaw'a Derek,

Good morning everyone, let me begin by welcoming you to the Kaay Llnaagay Heritage Centre . For those who don't know me, my name is kil tlaats' gaa, Peter Lantin and I am the President of the Haida Nation. It is a great opportunity to speak to you this morning to kick off this very important gathering to discuss the future of the forestry industry on Haida Gwaii. This address is long overdue and we are fortunate that the Haida Gwaii Management Council has created this forum for us to come together and share.

I will be providing you with some perspective from the Haida Nation on our involvement in this industry from pre-colonial times; to the height of the tension escalating at Athlii Gwaii in the 80's, moving into the unified islands stance during Island Spirit Rising and the Kunstaa'guu Kunstaayah Reconciliation Protocol that set out the new regime in forest management on Haida Gwaii. It is very important that I end my opening remarks with a significant amount of time spent on why we are here, for which I'll speak about the past five years and the future of forestry from a Haida Nation perspective.

In order to appreciate the Haida perspective as it relates to forestry on Haida Gwaii in 2015, you must look back at where we have come from. There are a few slides to assist in these opening remarks...

### SLIDE 1 – HAIDA GWAII PRE-CONTACT

- Haida forest management before contact
- Haida trade and economy before contact

### SLIDE 2 – HAIDA GWAII INDIAN RESERVES

- Major changes in scale:
  - o People moved onto reserves = from 1 million hectares to 1600 hectares, 0.0016%
  - o And we lost control of the land.

### SLIDE 3 – TENURES IN 1980

- After contact, economic model changed.
- Values about how to treat the land changed, and power shifted.
- At the height of logging in the 1980s, 2.75 million cubic metres of old growth were being hauled off Haida Gwaii each year.
- No one had any say in this number, and few benefits were coming back to communities.
- To address this, in 1985 at Athlii Gwaii, our nation and our elders stood the line, not to end logging, but for sustainability, respect for the land, and to make decisions for ourselves.
- All joined together in Islands Spirit Rising based on a common set of values, including bringing economic benefits back to Haida Gwaii, and keeping land, sea, and culture intact.

#### SLIDE 4 – LOGGING TO DATE

- Today, 156,000 hectares of Haida Gwaii forests have been logged.
- 70% of the best forest is gone.
- What's left is what we have to work with.
- This has left not only environmental damage, but emotionally damaged, this affected us as people, affected our cultural well-being, this is the repair that is currently underway
- Just like how planting trees can rebuild a forest, the Haida people have just recently replanted seeds that will begin to repair this emotional damage, it's not going to be achieved overnight (or in our first 3 years of operation) but we are preparing to turn the corner

#### SLIDE 5 – 2010 LAND USE PLAN

- In the 30 years since Athlii Gwaii:
  - o Gwaii Haanas protected and under co-management (1993),
  - o Haidas launch title case (2002)
  - o TFL 39 case (2005), held governments to a higher standard
  - o K&K (2009),
  - o Land use plan (2010), included for the first time ever, included EBM with protections for Haida and community values.
- Today, over 50 percent of Haida Gwaii is protected areas.
- Lowered the AAC from 2.75 million cubic metres to around 900,000.

#### SLIDE 6 – LAND USE PLAN PLUS MARINE AREAS

- Another precedent setting feature is that land use plans include marine areas.
  - o 70% of the coast line is protected.
  - o Gwaii Haanas working on creating first ever Land Sea People plan which looks at the ecosystems from mountain top to sea floor in a holistic way.

The first 6 slides of this presentation cover the past, a past that was driven by the intricate relationship of the Haida and the land, one based on yahguudang, respect. The stand at Lyell, Island Spirit Rising, happened because of yahguudang, it's entrenched in us by our Nonnie's and Chinnie's and those values and principles must be present in everything we do going forward. The substantial steps in 2009 between the Haida Nation and B.C. are also entrenched with yahguudang, treating the land with respect is now the law on these islands. So here we are taking our steps back into the forest economy, just as we did in pre-colonial times and like those times, these economic steps will be done with yahguudang.

#### SLIDE 7 – TENURE MAP

##### What we have done

- Haida Nation has an economic wing, HaiCo formed 5 years ago in 2010.
- Haida buy TFL and form Taan Forest,
- Also now own Haida Wild, West Coast Resorts, Haida House at Tlall.
- In 2014, the third year of operation, Taan logged 137,748 cubic metres.
- Taan is also FSC Certified. It is one of the only coastal forest companies in BC to be FSC certified.

- In the past 12 months HaiCo and its subsidiaries including Taan employed over 300 people on Haida Gwaii, and spent over \$20 million for wages, contractor services, goods and merchandise supporting the local economy.

### Working together

- CHN working with communities and organizations , e.g.:
  - o Haida owned and operated
  - o NWCC
  - o Haida Gwaii Semester
  - o Gwaii Trust
  - o Band Councils also doing work (e.g. SBC funded economic development study)

Today, all the communities on Haida Gwaii are working on initiatives. Now we need to look for ways to support each other in this work. We are here to acknowledge the efforts of everyone who calls Haida Gwaii their home, we all have respect for these islands if you are truly an “islander.” The balance must be made on realising upon these opportunities that we all collectively worked so hard to create, the Haida Nation is learning a tremendous amount of knowledge about managing forests in a modern economic context and the goals we have heard for decades remain our goals: local decision making, local jobs, locals contracts, timber supply, economic benefits to community shareholders. These are the Haida Nation goals, we have not reached this destination today but we are here committed to working together with the island communities to create the balance between strong stewardship and conservation and the economic capacity of our forests. We accept this challenge and I encourage all of you to embrace this challenge with us and move forward together to ensure we keep our benefits local and that Haida Gwaii communities flourish in this new world of sustainable, locally controlled forest management. We must find the answers together, a few questions to leave you with...

- o How much can we take? Or better yet, Haidas would ask: how much do we need?
- o How do we implement local ideas that are innovative to address these local problems?
- o Who on HG needs wood? And what for? How do we balance support for local requirements while maintaining economic viability of operations?
- o Can we change the current “stump to dump” economic model?
- o Can we build an economy that keeps people here, and keeps our youth here.

And with a heartfelt Haaw’a, I wish you all the best over the next 2 days and please do not hesitate to stop us and share a conversation about your vision for the future.

## SLIDE 8 – COMMUNITY FOREST

- We are doing our part to address these questions, and we have made progress in some areas.
- There have also been promises and a lot of discussion over many years about the allocation of tenure for a community-forest... for 18 years.
- The communities have identified this need as a priority, not only in terms of economic opportunities for them, but also to be part of creating a long-term vision for a sustainable Islands forest industry.
- The CHN has taken this need seriously and we have identified through our internal planning process these areas as the place to locate a community forest
- Our calculation is based on what the area can provide and not based what we would like, or think we need.
- It is also based on a standard that takes into consideration the forest values important to the Haida nation and Island communities. Those standards have been voiced loud and clear many times through planning processes such as this.
- We want management of this area to reflect local values and to create solutions that benefit local communities and
- For years now, we have all committed to working together, and so we would like to discuss this at the Islands Protocol Table.

We're looking forward to hearing what comes out of the next 2 days....

Thank you.